

Progress report on future DCS

NOAA's Office of Satellite data Processing (OSDPD) is coordinating the action to download blind orbits for both of the operational satellites at Svalbard in response to the Data Buoy Cooperation Panel user request. Funding was provided by NOAA to build the communication infrastructure, which will carry the Svalbard data to our current preprocessing system. Testing will begin in July 2005, with a plan to operationally capture blind orbits by fall 2005.

A letter was sent to NOAA from CNES on May 3rd 2005 with the subject "Information concerning the Myriade TM characteristics". A component of the letter requests that NOAA investigate the feasibility of providing blind orbit support at the Fairbanks Alaska CDA site. The Support would be for the proposed Myriade micro satellite and cover the 2008 to 2013 time frame. The micro satellite will provide valuable coverage in the 0530 orbit when NOAA-15 is retired. The request was forwarded to NESDIS Satellite Operations Control Center (SOCC). OSDPS has asked for an update by June 16th 2005.

NOAA has coordinated the expansion of non environmental applications with the NTIA and has come to an agreement on the definition of de minimis use. The 5% system use cap on non environmental use has been redefined as 5% system capacity measured in Erlangs. The OPSCOM co-chairs were briefed on the success of the coordination at the March 2005 intercessional. In order to manage the new agreed upon 5% cap a change in the OPSCOM Terms of Reference is required. The TOR provides the OPSCOM greater flexibility in managing its non environmental use as well as greater responsibility. Therefore NOAA recommends editing Section 2.2.2 Objectives of the Operations Committee to add the following: "to review and ensure reports of non-environmental use of spare capacity does not exceed the de minimis value of 5% of the system capacity or interfere with environmental use of the system. System capacity is defined in the paper "The Case for a 5% of Argos System capacity limits on non environmental applications" CNES agent will report.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) approached NOAA on creating a Letter of Agreement between our Agencies for the use of Argos DCS. DHS more specifically Customs and Boarder Patrol (CBP) is interested in organizing a demonstration project use Argos. The project would test the capabilities of the Argos system for container tracking and chain of custody solutions. NOAA is working with CBP legal and hope to have an update by the start of the 2005 OPSCOM.